

amendment of the claims nor based on information submitted in an information disclosure statement filed during the period set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c).

Referring to sections 3 and 4 of the Office Action, new references, U.S. Patent Nos. 6,118,540 to Roy et al. and 4,641,966 to Lemmers et al., have been cited. New grounds of rejections of claims 2-5, 12-14, 17 and 22 have been made applying the above references. Claims 2-5, 12-14, 17 and 22 were not amended in the Amendment filed on March 26, 2002, in response to the Office Action dated December 28, 2001, and indeed have not been amended at all. In addition, no information disclosure statement including the cited references has been submitted.


For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the finality of rejection of July 3, 2002 be withdrawn. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,

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JUL 25 2002


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07/25/02 TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800
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